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SUBJECT Edwin Wilson

STEVE BOSH: It has been a long and dramatic case of spies chasing ex-spies, and now that search has yielded a fugitive. He is Edwin Wilson, a former CIA agent accused of training terrorists in Libya.

Christy Witker [?] reports on his arrest in New York today.

CHRISTY WITKER: The FBI, Justice, and Treasury Departments, and Interpol have been searching for the two former CIA agents, Edwin Wilson and Frank Terpil since April, 1980 when they were indicted on charges of assisting Libyan terrorism.

The government says the two illegally supplied Libya with arms, explosives and intelligence information, and apparently trained terrorists personnel for Libyan leader Colonel Qaddafi.

For the past year, the Justice Department says 54 year old Wilson has been living in Libya. Recently it was learned Wilson was travelling under an assumed name under a phony Irish passport. Over the past several days, investigators tracked him through Western Europe, then early this morning Wilson tried to enter the Dominican Republic. Based on the Interpol alert, he was refused entry and, according to international law, was put on the next flight to his native country, the United States.

Wilson was arrested as he landed at JFK Airport and taken to Brooklyn US District Court for arraignment. But US Magistrate Simon Klein [?] said he would have to reopen arraignment proceedings tomorrow because Wilson's lawyer had not yet arrived here from Washington.

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When Wilson was indicted in 1980, bail was set at \$500,000, but the Justice Department today asked for considerably more.

MAN: Our position on bail basically is that Mr. Wilson is not likely to return to court.

WITKER: Wilson, dressed in a business suit and wiping perspiration from his forehead, stared straight ahead as the US magistrate followed the government's request and set bail at \$20 million.

Assistant US Attorney Lawrence Barcella [?] defended the government's request for the unusually high bail by pointing out Wilson had known he was being sought for two years but had remained a fugitive, and Wilson had access to millions of dollars in cash and property in this country, Europe and Africa, and that because of his years of employment with various US intelligence agencies, he is extremely resourceful.

It's expected Wilson will spend the night at Manhattan's Metropolitan Correctional Center, then tomorrow morning he'll be back here in US District Court in Brooklyn where the judge will hear his lawyer's recommendations for appropriate bail.

In Brooklyn, Christy Witker, Independent Network News.